

Written Testimony Opposing Governor's Bill No. 16

David Ioime, Cheshire CT, March 13, 2022

My name is David Ioime. I reside in Cheshire, Connecticut and **this is my testimony opposing Governor's Bill No. 16**. This is a 52-page Bill titled "An Act Addressing Gun Violence and Juvenile Crime." However, the first 44 pages of this Bill has nothing to do with these. It's not until Section 29 on page 45 that the Bill actually begins to address Gun Violence and Juvenile Crime. This Bill is almost entirely about new provisions that further restrict, or eliminate the ownership and use of firearms by law abiding CT citizens like me.

I own several types of firearms to support a shooting hobby. Like **thousands of Connecticut gun owner's**, I have a Connecticut Pistol Permit. I enjoy target shooting at my local shooting range and it's comforting for me to know that I have firearms in my home safe in the event that I should ever be subjected to an armed home invasion, which in today's world is possible. I also like that my Pistol Permit and State Law gives me the right to open, or conceal carry my firearm if I ever choose to do so. **Most gun owners feel the same way.**

Here are some of the **many gun related provisions in Bill No. 16** that affect law abiding citizens like me that **cause me to oppose this Bill**.

- 1) **The ridiculous expanded definition of what is an Assault Weapon beginning on page 16 of the Bill and which includes the "Other Category" of Firearms.** It will make many legal firearms currently owned by many law-abiding citizens illegal. An example of the ridiculousness of the revised Assault Weapon definition is that even a rimfire .22 caliber firearm having a detachable magazine is now defined as an Assault Weapon and is illegal. The length of a .22 caliber cartridge is the width of my thumb and not assault ammunition. This very small cartridge has been used forever for target shooting by people of all ages. Where are we going with this? Is the Governor next going to define BB guns as an Assault Weapon?
- 2) **Expanding the list of banned firearm accessories to include Pistol Braces.** Pistol Braces do just that, stabilize the firearm and are particularly useful to those with a disability.
- 3) **Modifying the Carry Laws to show your Permit if asked by Police.** In actual practice this would likely be a process where an Officer asks to see a permit, takes your firearm, checks a database to determine if there have been any violations affecting the Permit, and next checks the Pistols Serial Number in another database to determine if the pistol was stolen. **This law modification is intended to discourage lawful pistol carries and will encourage racial profiling, especially in our cities having minorities that legally carry.**
- 4) **Creating more Gun Free Zones:** These numerous restrictions appear to be intended to prevent legal gun carry everywhere in public and is unacceptable and unenforceable.
- 5) **Restrictions and new Licensing Requirements for FFLs.** These provisions appear to be the start of an attempt to drive FFLs out of business. Gun owners need to use a FFLs to legally buy and transfer firearms, as well as to buy ammunition.

In summary, Law abiding citizens owning legally purchased firearms are not the enemy. It's criminals using illegally acquired firearms that are the enemy. This bill as written loses sight of this. I'd like to also remind the Governor and Legislators that the right to bear arms is legally protected by both the U.S. Constitution and the Connecticut State Constitution. Let's stop enacting laws that will take legal guns of law-abiding citizens off the streets, and instead enact stronger laws that go after criminals using illegally obtained guns.